

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for screening a compound that is able to suppress aberrant immune activity, wherein the aberrant immune activity is selected from aberrant immune complex formation, aberrant immune complex clearance and immune complex induced inflammation, the method comprising the steps of:

a. administering a compound to be screened to transgenic mouse generated by transgenically modifying an embryo from a strain, derived from strains C57BL/6 and SJL, that is resistant to collagen-induced arthritis, such that said mouse comprises and expresses a transgene for human FcγRIIa receptor, whereby the expression of said FcγRIIa renders the mouse susceptible to an autoimmune disease caused by aberrant immune complex formation, aberrant immune complex clearance or immune complex induced inflammation; and

b. assessing the transgenic mouse to determine if the compound reduces aberrant immune activity in the mouse;

wherein said autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus.

2. (currently amended) A method of screening a compound that is able to suppress an autoimmune disease caused by aberrant immune complex formation, aberrant immune complex clearance or immune complex induced inflammation by suppressing aberrant immune activity selected from aberrant immune complex formation, aberrant immune complex clearance and immune complex induced inflammation, the method comprising the steps of:

a. administering a compound to be screened to a transgenic mouse generated by transgenically modifying an embryo from a strain, derived from strains C57BL/6 and SJL, that is resistant to collagen-induced arthritis, such that said mouse comprises and

expresses a transgene for human FcγRIIa receptor, whereby the expression of said FcγRIIa renders the mouse susceptible to an autoimmune disease caused by aberrant immune complex formation, aberrant immune complex clearance or immune complex induced inflammation; and

b. assessing the transgenic mouse to determine if the compound reduces aberrant immune activity in the mouse;

wherein said autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus.

3. (currently amended) A method for screening a compound that is able to suppress an autoimmune disease caused by aberrant immune complex formation, aberrant immune complex clearance or immune complex induced inflammation, the method comprising the steps of:

a. administering a compound to be screened to a non-human cell expressing human FcγRIIa receptor, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of platelets, neutrophils and macrophages, and wherein the cell is derived from a transgenic mouse generated by transgenically modifying an embryo from a strain, derived from strains C57BL/6 and SJL, that is resistant to collagen-induced arthritis, such that said mouse comprises and expresses a transgene for human FcγRIIa receptor, whereby the expression of said FcγRIIa renders the mouse susceptible to an autoimmune disease caused by aberrant immune complex formation, aberrant immune complex clearance or immune complex induced inflammation; and

b. assessing the cell to determine if the compound reduces aberrant immune activity in the cell.

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the method comprises assessing the transgenic mouse to determine if the compound reduces immune complex induced inflammation.

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the compound reduces aberrant immune activity in the transgenic mouse by inhibiting the activity of FcγRIIa expressed in the rodent.

9. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein in step (b) the aberrant immune activity is assessed in terms of clinical symptoms and/or pathological features of an autoimmune disease.

10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the autoimmune disease is rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

12. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the autoimmune disease is collagen-induced arthritis (CIA).

13-42. (cancelled)